

I support media diversity

As an avid seeker of information, on the radio, television, internet and in the newspapers, I am deeply concerned by what consequences the proposed loosening of regulations on Media Ownership may have on our democracy.

Taking the past few months as an example, it is quite clear that already there is a frightening tendency for all television news to adopt the same point of view, while suppressing any opinion that is remotely critical. Television news is what most Americans depend on for information, and let's face it, the quality is lacking, in fact it's often ridiculed by overseas news outlets as mere propaganda. Further concentration of ownership, the inevitable outcome of deregulation, will make it impossible for the very few stations that still maintain a modicum of pride in the quality of their news programs to exist.

The same goes for radio stations and newspapers.

Not that information is everything. Even entertainment programming can only suffer by the lack of competition. Concentration of ownership is also concentration of opinion and point of view. Gone are diversity and the melting pot, the things that make America beautiful.

The internet has been a blessing for those of us seeking a wider range of views than has been offered by traditional media. It's a lot of extra work, it's not convenient, but worth it because the diversity is there. There again deregulation can only impose limits on who can visit what, when and for how much?

While it is our responsibility as citizens to demand higher quality from media companies, I believe it is your duty to insure fairness and diversity in the communications world. Information and debate are essential to a functioning democracy, let's not let media monopolies limit our view of the world and tell us what to think.

Respectfully,

Chris Worland